

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JM, CU, PGOV

SUBJECT: MANLEY ON CUBANS IN AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH STILL A STAUNCH DEFENDER OF CASTRO AND CUBA'S ROLE IN ANGOLA AND HORN OF AFRICA, MANLEY IS DOING A BIT OF WAVERING ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEETING WITH PM MANLEY LAST WEEK (ON OCCASION OF INTRODUCING NEW DCM ROY HAVERKAMP), MANLEY POINTED TO TWO AUTOGRAPHED PICTURES ON HIS WALL, HANGING SIDE BY SIDE. ONE WAS OF CASTRO AND THE OTHER PRESIDENT CARTER. HE CALLED THEM HIS "TWO VERY GOOD FRIENDS". IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT CUBANS IN AFRICA. MANLEY SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE IT "QUITE CLEAR" THAT HE ADMIRES CASTRO AS A GREAT LEADER AND CONSIDERS HIM A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND AND A FRIEND OF JAMAICA. CUBA HAS NEVER INTERFERED IN JAMAICA'S AFFAIRS (COMMENT: IMPLICATION THAT "ON THE OTHER HAND" USG TRIED TO DESTABLIZE JAMAICA IN 1976).

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DESPITE USG CLAIM THAT HIS (MALEY)'S) FACTS ARE WRONG REGARDING THE SITUATION, CUBA CAME TO ASSISTANCE OF LEGITIMATE GOVT. OF ANGOLA BY INVITATION TO RESIST INVASION. CUBA'S ROLE IN HORN OF AFRICA IS SEEN IN SAME LIGHT. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION REGARDING CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA AND HOW HE COULD EXPLAIN THREAT OF INVOLVEMENT IN

ERITREA, HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT DOES NOT EXACTLY SQUARE WITH HIS RATIONALE FOR THE LEGITIMACY OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. HE SAID HE WAS "WAVERING SOMEWHAT" AND HAS TO SORT IT OUT IN HIS OWN MIND.

3. ON THE NEXT DAY, DURING A MEETING WITH NINE MEMBERS OF THE VISITING AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL), AND IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM ONE OF THE GROUP, MANLEY MADE A VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF JAMAICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA, DURING WHICH HE CLAIMED THAT FOR YEARS THE USG TRIED TO DISCOURAGE CARIBBEAN RELATIONS WITH ALL COMMUNIST NATIONS AND THEREBY DRAW THEM INTO THE US-USSR COLD WAR. HE SAID JAMAICA'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS ONE ON NON-ALIGNMENT AND NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISPUTES OF OTHER NATIONS. HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE USSR OR WITH CUBA. SINCE THE SOVIET PEOPLE AND THE CUBAN PEOPLE "LIKED THEIR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT", IT IS ALRIGHT WITH HIM. HE AND JAMAICANS PREFER A "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT IS ALRIGHT WITH CUBA AND THE USSR. JAMAICA WILL NEVER GO COMMUNIST AND THAT, TOO, IS ALRIGHT WITH CUBA AND THE USSR.

4. MANLEY FURTHER ADDED THAT THE USG GETS SCHIZOPHRENIC WHEN CUBA SENDS "TECHNICIANS" TO CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICA. AFRICANS WELCOME ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET. CUBANS ARE SUPPLYING NEEDED EXPERTS IN AFRICA, JUST AS THEY ARE IN JAMAICA. THEY BUILD SCHOOLS, PROVIDE MEDICAL PERSONNEL, ETC. HE SAID HE SAW NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CUBAN TECHNICIANS AND OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. WITH REGARD TO CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA, MANLEY SAID THEY WERE INVITED BY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS TO HELP REPEL INVASION. HE SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.

5. WHEN ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ACYPL ASKED MANLEY WHETHER HE CONDONED CONTINUED CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND MENTIONED THE ERITREAN SITUATION, MANLEY ABRUPTLY ENDED THE CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF JAMAICA ARE A CABINET DECISION AND HE COULD NOT RESPOND TO THIS LAST QUESTION BECAUSE THE CABINET HAD NOT YET CONSIDERED THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE REMARKS MADE TO ME AND TO THE ACYPL GROUP REGARDING CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA IS UNCHARACTERISTIC OF MANLEY. UNTIL NOW HE HAS NEVER FELT CONSTRAINED

BY THE CABINET OR ANYONE ELSE IN SPEAKING OUT ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY ON CUBA. THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS REMARKS IS THAT IT IS
ANOTHER SIGN THAT THE MODERATES IN THE PNP HAVE
HIM UNDER SOME RESTRAINT, AND THAT IT IS AN
INDICATION OF A POSSIBLE SPLIT IN THE CABINET ON
CUBA. THIS LATTER WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY.
IRVING

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